

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03

DRC-01 /157 W

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R 301300Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6175

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SOCI, XF, VT

SUBJECT: PAPAL STATEMENT ON PALESTINIANS

1. VATICAN RELEASED JULY 29 FULL TEXT OF LETTER FROM POPEPAUL TO MSGR. JOHN G. NOLAN, THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT OF THE PONTIFICAL MISSION FOR PALESTINE ON THE OCCASION OF THE MISSION'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY. IN LETTER DATED JULY 16, POPE EXPRESSES GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION FOR THE EXCELLENT WORK MISSION HAS DONE AND EXHORTS COLLABORATORS TO PREPARE FOR EVEN MORE INTENSE EFFORTS IN NEAR FUTURE. PERTINENT TEXT CONCERNING PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: THE WORK OF THE MISSION FOR PALESTINE HAS BEEN ONE OF THE CLEAREST SIGNS OF THE HOLY SEE'S CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF THE PALESTINIANS, WHO ARE PARTICULARLY DEAR TO US BECAUSE

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THEY ARE PEOPLE OF THE HOLY LAND, BECAUSE THEY INCLUDE FOLLOWERS

OF CHRIST AND BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN AND STILL ARE BEING SO TRAGICALLY TRIED.

WE EXPRESS AGAIN OUR HEARTFELT SHARING IN THEIR SUFFERINGS AND OUR SUPPORT FOR THEIR LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS. MAY OUR PATERNAL SOLICITUDE BRING COMFORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT, ESPECIALLY TO THE REFUGEES, WHO FOR YEARS HAVE BEEN LIVING UNDER INHUMAN CONDITIONS.

UNFORTUNATELY SUCH A STATE OF AFFAIRS HAS PRODUCED IN MANY PALESTINIANS A SENSE OF FRUSTRATION AND, IN SOME, SUCH ANGUISH AND DESPERATION AS TO MOVE THEM TO ACTS OF VIOLENT PROTEST WHICH WITH SORROW WE HAVE BEEN CONSTRAINED STRENUOUSLY TO DEPLORE.

IT SEEMS TO US, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THIS IS THE MOMENT FOR ALL PALESTINIANS TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH A CONSTRUCTIVE, LIKE-MINDED AND RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE, AS THE HOPE BECOMES EVER STRONGER THAT THEIR PARTICULAR PROBLEMS WILL BE DISCUSSED AND THAT A SOLUTION TO THEM WILL BE FOUND DURING THE CURRENT GENERAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. UNQUOTE.

2. MSGR. NOLAN, WHO ENJOYS CONSIDERABLE RESPECT IN HIGHEST VATICAN CIRCLES, IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE CHURCH'S MAJOR CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY. HE IS ALSO KNOWN TO MAINTAIN A WIDE CIRCLE OF CONTACTS THROUGHOUT THE ARAB WORLD. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DOCUMENTS, POPULAR SUPPORT, DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME10422
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740206-1084
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974076/aaaaaeqx.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAPAL STATEMENT ON PALESTINIANS
TAGS: PFOR, SOCI, XF, VT, (NOLAN, JOHN G)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005